SI. No.	Statc/UT	1998	1999	2000 (upto Dec)
26.	Pondichcrry	18	71	—
27.	Rajasthan	—	—	—
28.	Sikkim	—	1	—
29.	Tamil Nadu	2	—	119
30.	Tripura	—	—	—
31.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	4
32.	West Bengal	—	—	—
	TOTAL:	185	149	358

Maternal Mortality Rate

3951. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maternal Mortality Rate has shown any improvement in the country during the last ten years;

(b) if so, the number of deaths of women per one lakh live births recorded during the above period;

(c) whether a large number of women arc dying due to pregnancy-related complications than ever before;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate medical facilities to those women who arc in need of such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Estimates

of Maternal Mortality Rate at the National Level for the last ten years are not available. The Maternal Mortality Rate estimated by National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and Simple Registration System of Registrar General of India (RGI) for different periods are given below:—

	92-93	1997	1998
RGI	NA	408	407
NFHS	424-	-	540*

According to the survey itself the difference between the two NFHS surveys is not statistically significant.

Major causes of Maternal Mortality arc Hemorrhages, Anaemia, Puerperal Complications, Obstructed Labour, Abortions and Toxaemia of Pregnancy.

(e) Maternal Health is an integral part of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme which aims at bringing down the maternal mortality and morbidity. Under this programme various interventions focused on reducing maternal deaths are being implemented. These arc essential obstetric care; Emergency Obstetric Care; provision for referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through panchayats; provision of drugs and equipment at first referral units; provision of contractual staff like additional Health Workers, staff nurses, doctors and anesthetist. Funds arc also being provided for schemes like 24 hours delivery services at selected primary health centres and community health centres; training of dais in 142 districts with safe delivery rate of less then 30 per cent and holding of health camps in 102 districts with adverse health indicators.

Purchases of Medicines for Medical Store Depots

3952. SHRI VUAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DG Health has permitted purchases of 18 crores rupees worth of medicines for Medical Store Depots;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the